

Hatem Bridge Tolling Plan Information Sheet

Did You Know?

- The Hatem Bridge is 71 years old and requires continued maintenance and repair.
- Over the last three years, the Hatem Bridge took in \$12 million in gross revenue while \$74 million was spent during that same period for operations, re-decking, and other miscellaneous repairs.
- 90% of the traffic crossing the Hatem Bridge today uses the AVI decal.
- Under the current AVI program costing \$10 per year, a commuter who uses the bridge 5 days a week for 50 weeks each year pays a toll of 4 cents per round trip.
- With the proposed change in unlimited tolls to \$36 per year (Oct. 2011), the basic cost to cross the Hatem is the same as it was in 1926 when commuters bought 60 one-way trips each month for \$3.
- The AVI was innovative tolling technology in 1976 but has become obsolete and is not compatible with today's technology. (Imagine trying to connect an Atari™ game system with an X-Box™)

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is MDTA proposing to eliminate the AVI decal?

With 150,000 decals in circulation, almost 90% of Hatem Bridge traffic uses AVI.

The AVI decal is unique to the Hatem Bridge and uses outdated technology. In fact, it's becoming more and more difficult to get repair parts. The AVI is also not compatible with the *E-ZPass* system. Simplifying toll-collection and increasing *E-ZPass* use will reduce operating costs and improve safety for workers and customers at the Hatem toll plaza. *E-ZPass* improves traffic flow, a benefit to all our customers.

When would the proposed change from AVI decal to *E-ZPass* take place?

Under the proposed tolling plan for the Hatem Bridge, the MDTA would no longer accept AVI decals beginning October 1, 2011. MDTA would apply the full \$10 value of a valid AVI decal toward an *E-ZPass* account, regardless of when the AVI was acquired, or refund a pro-rated cash amount at the customer's request. The MDTA is working to develop a transition plan to ease the move to *E-ZPass* for AVI customers.

What would MDTA offer in place of the AVI decal?

A new *E-ZPass* Maryland discount plan, the **Hatem Bridge Unlimited Plan** would replace the AVI decal. For an annual fee, customers could make unlimited trips across the Hatem Bridge for a full year. Beginning in October 2011, the annual fee is proposed at \$36, then increases to \$72 in July 2013. All other *E-ZPass* fees apply.

If you cross the Hatem Bridge 250 times in one year, the cost per round trip would be \$0.14 beginning in October 2011 (Phase 1) and \$0.29 after July 2013 (Phase 2). Even if you add in the *E-ZPass* \$1.50 monthly service fee for the year the cost is \$0.22 per trip in Phase 1 and \$0.36 in Phase 2.

What is *E-ZPass* and how do I get one?

E-ZPass is an electronic toll-collection system used at toll facilities in the Northeastern United States, from Maryland to Illinois and from Virginia to Maine. With *E-ZPass*, drivers set up a pre-paid account and place a small, plastic device called a transponder on the inside of their vehicles' windshields. Tolls are automatically deducted from their accounts when they travel through toll plazas (or beneath tolling structures as on the ICC).

- Visit www.ezpassmd.com to enroll online
- Buy an *E-ZPass* Maryland "On the Go" at a participating retailer (check the website for locations). *E-ZPass* "On the Go" is a pre-packaged toll transponder that you can purchase for \$46. It includes pre-paid tolls in the amount of \$25 which is available immediately. The remaining \$21 is your non-refundable transponder fee. You simply register your transponder within seven days of its first use and secure your account with a \$25 account deposit on a credit card. *E-ZPass* "On the Go" is available at Motor Vehicle Administration locations in Elkton and Bel Air.
- Visit an *E-ZPass* Stop-in Center. Stop-in Centers are located at most Maryland toll facilities including the Hatem Bridge. A Stop-in Center will be opened off I-95 at the Perryville exit later this year.



How much would it cost to sign up for the proposed **Hattem Bridge Unlimited Plan**?

- For daily commuter, \$0.29 per round trip (250 per year)
- For occasional user, \$1.38 per round trip for one trip per week (52 per year)
- If you bring your unexpired AVI decal to an *E-ZPass* Stop-in Center, MDTA will give you a credit of \$10 on a **Hattem Bridge Unlimited Plan** or receive a pro-rated cash refund instead.
- Each private account may have as many as four transponders and up to ten vehicles registered. Several vehicles can share a single transponder (and **Hattem Bridge Unlimited Plan**).
- When the pre-paid account balance reaches \$10, you will need to replenish the amount. You can do this automatically with a credit card or you can pay by cash at a MDTA Stop-in Center. Depending on your overall pattern of toll facility usage, your replenishment amount may change.
- Refer to *E-ZPass* Terms and Conditions for additional information.

Can I add the **Hattem Bridge Unlimited Plan** to my existing *E-ZPass* Maryland Account?

If the proposed plan is approved, you could call 888-321-6824 to talk to a customer service representative, visit the *E-ZPass* website www.ezpassmd.com, log into your account and add the **Hattem Bridge Unlimited Plan** to each transponder you wish to use or visit a Stop-in Center location.

Do I receive an *E-ZPass* Maryland discount when I travel out-of-state?

Each state that accepts *E-ZPass* sets its toll rates and discount plans independently. Check before you travel to determine whether there are *E-ZPass* discounts in other states along your route.

Will I receive a discount on MDTA tolls if my account and transponder are from another state or toll agency?

No. Only *E-ZPass* Maryland account holders would receive *E-ZPass* Maryland discounts.

What happens if I travel through an MDTA toll facility without a properly mounted transponder or if I forget to put the transponder in the vehicle I am using that day?

If the tolling equipment does not detect a valid transponder in the vehicle, a picture of the license plate is taken and reviewed to determine if it matches a vehicle registered anywhere in the *E-ZPass* system. If the vehicle is enrolled to a valid account, the cash/base toll is charged to that account. If not, the registered owner of the vehicle is mailed an invoice for the toll amount due. These customers are currently charged the cash/base toll plus a \$3 Notice of Toll Due fee. As part of the tolling plan, the MDTA has proposed to eliminate the \$3 Notice of Toll Due fee and replace it with a Video Toll rate set at 25% above the base/cash toll.

Where can I learn more about the MDTA's proposed tolling plan and where can I provide public comments?

Comments may be submitted for the official record by 5 p.m. on August 1, 2011, by completing the web form at www.mdtamaryland.gov; writing to MDTA Toll Comment, 2310 Broening Highway, Baltimore, MD, 21224; or attending a public hearing.

The MDTA Board plans to consider the matter for final action in a public meeting later this summer. The meeting details and approved tolling plan will be posted to www.mdtamaryland.gov.

